



Water for Forests and People  
in the Mediterranean Region **PAGE 3**

FOREST EUROPE Outcomes **PAGE 10**





## Director's Column

---

The EFI Associate Members decided to establish a new strategic function – Policy Advice at the Annual Conference last September. It was defined as “non-profit oriented support to political decision makers and policy institutions by services and capacity building” and motivated by the fact that “limited resources in policy institutions accentuate the demand for capacities of EFI and all its constituencies.”

This thinking has been materialized within the activities in FLEGT and REDD Facility, funded by the European Union, the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In four years, the facility has grown to cover half of the EFI budget this year.

In order to support these developments, EFI has decided to establish Policy Advice

office in Barcelona, Spain, in close contact and collaboration with the Regional Office EFIMED. This office will be a part of the Sant Pau campus of international organisations. After the Host Country Agreement has been signed with Spain – granting EFI privileges and immunities as an international organisation – the Policy Advice office will start this summer. It is expected that the Policy Advice office will accommodate over 20 FLEGT-REDD and EFIMED staff members by the end of this year, which equals close to half of the staff in the Headquarters.

The premises in a new attractive environment and working conditions will boost the development of Policy Advice function in the EFI, bringing new services for the member Countries and European Com-

mission. Having policy advice activities consolidated more into EFI structures will also enlarge the potentials for involving EFI Associate Members in these activities.

While Barcelona will offer a home base for growing Policy Advice activities, we also continue working on the establishment of an EFI Liaison Office in Brussels. Its staff will increase the links and liaise between the policy makers and donors in Brussels, and the whole EFI network of Regional Offices, Policy Advice Office and Headquarters.

*Risto Päivinen*  
Director, EFI



Joelle Baillet

## Network Speaks

---

### Networking and Cooperation: Keys to Success?

The second Mediterranean Forest Week took place in Avignon, in the historic Palais des Papes, in early April 2011 (see page 8). More than 250 people participated in the 17 sessions of the week that offered them a unique opportunity to work together. EFIMED and FAO (Silva Mediterranea Committee) as the two main organisers with Mercedes Rois, Marc Palahí and *Christophe Besacier* as well as the other members of the Organising Committee all cooperated in the preparation of the successful event.

One of the main outcomes of the week was the launch of the Collaborative Partner-

ship on Mediterranean Forests, which aims to address major threats to the region's forests, taking into account the severe impact of climate change. All partners commit to exchange information on their activities and to develop a common plan of operation for the benefit of Southern Mediterranean countries. As two new partners, AFD and COFOR-International, signed the Partnership, it has now 18 members who agree on its agenda for 2011–2012.

The Mediterranean Forest Week also offered an opportunity to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cooperation on forestry issues in the Mediterranean region. In May 1911, at the international congress on agriculture in Madrid, *Robert Hickel*, a French

forester, stated that it was necessary to create a link between Mediterranean foresters: “This link... could take the form of an international technical association... and the publication of a periodical bulletin”.

Networking and cooperation: the terms and methods are new – Robert Hickel did not receive 100 e-mails a day – but the idea is not. This long-term continuity is to the credit, among others, of our occupation as foresters.

*Alain Chaudron*  
Senior Adviser, French Ministry of Agriculture

# Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean Region

Yves Birot and Marc Palahí | EFIMED

The Mediterranean region is faced with water scarcity due to limited and irregular rainfall patterns and increasing water demand as a result of population growth and the expansion of irrigated areas. Expected climate change will further reduce water availability through a decrease in rainfall and runoff. It will adversely impact the resilience and even survival of woodland ecosystems as a result of higher aridity and more frequent extreme events (heat waves, dry spells). This, in turn, will affect the provision of ecosystem goods and services to society.







The artificial lake of La Môle in a fully forested watershed dominated by cork oak, supplying water to the tourist town of Saint-Tropez, Var, France. It is interesting to note that the water company is paying annual fees to the local forest owners (public and private) for maintaining the fuel break network, and thus limiting the risk of wildfires, whose impact on dam siltation and water quality can be huge.

C. Birot

Mediterranean countries are home to 60% the world's "water-poor" populations with less than 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/inhabitant/year. By 2025, 63 million people in the Mediterranean will be in the need of water (with less than 500 m<sup>3</sup>/inhabitant/year).

The interactions between forest cover and hydrology are rather complex – with regard to variables such as low and high flows, water yield and quality – and depend also on many site-specific parameters. However, as these water-forest relationships are poorly perceived because of persisting "clichés", closing the gap between science and public perception is urgently needed.

Mediterranean woodlands, for instance, cover large areas and they often occupy the upper part of watershed in mountainous areas, where they play a crucial role in protecting soil and influencing water regime.

Given the interconnected nature of forests and water, water cycle and water budget should be considered in an integrated manner, addressing both the blue water (i.e. the liquid form, used for the human needs or flowing to the oceans) and the green water (i.e. the

vapour form, resulting from evaporation and transpiration processes).

Innovative knowledge-based policies and strategies should look at both green and blue water, and balance water for people and nature through a real socio-ecohydrological approach, founded on an integrated land/water/ecosystem management. This requires joint efforts from the scientific community (hydrologists/ecologists/foresters/economists) for organizing and structuring the available knowledge in a comprehensive manner. This was the motivation and aim of the book "Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean – A Challenging Balance" which EFIMED compiled as the first volume of the new EFI series "What Science Can Tell Us" targeting decision/policy makers, managers and society in general.

Please visit [www.efi.int/portal/virtual\\_library/publications/what\\_science\\_can\\_tell\\_us/](http://www.efi.int/portal/virtual_library/publications/what_science_can_tell_us/) for a free download of *Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean – A Challenging Balance. What Science Can Tell Us 1, 2011* by Yves Birot, Carlos Gracia and Marc Palahi (editors). The book is also available in French and will be translated into Spanish by the end of 2011.



Carlos Gracia | Centre for Research on Ecology and Forestry Applications (CREAF), Spain

## Blue and Green Water: What Trade-offs?

Life in the Mediterranean region is constrained by the water available to living beings. In a broad view precipitation is, in average, around 450 mm while the potential evapotranspiration reach mean values of around 1000 mm. This means that Mediterranean ecosystems – particularly forests – have to deal with an almost permanent shortage of water. In the Mediterranean climate, this shortage is more severe during the dry summer periods when the vapor pressure deficit (VPD) of the atmosphere is higher.

While boreal and most temperate forests are “energy limited” and transpire an amount of water which is limited by the available solar radiation, Mediterranean forests are most of the time “water limited”. This means that the water transpired is as much as the root systems can reach. A dense cover of e.g. holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) can turn back to the atmosphere as much as 90% of the annual precipitation. Of course this is not water lost: it keeps the trees alive, can be re-used after precipitation – usually far from the areas where it was transpired – and helps to control soil erosion among many other beneficial effects.

### In terms of water, life is expensive

The proper management of any system, including ecosystems, requires thorough knowledge of its functional traits. In order to avoid management errors based on misconceptions about water and forests, it is important to understand how much water a tree uses and how it uses that water. While there is an open debate about if forests attract rainfall, there is no doubt that forests are water consumers and reduce the stream flow significantly.

Life is very expensive in terms of water. To fix one gram of carbon that will be transformed e.g. in corn

grain, pine needles or wood in our trees, a plant uses a huge amount of water. The efficiency with which the plants use water is very low. Most common values are around 500 grams of water to fix 1 g of carbon. Obviously in these conditions forests use huge amounts of blue water (precipitation which feeds our stream flows) to capture carbon in the gas exchange process, returning this water to the atmosphere as green water. The result is that to produce 1 m<sup>3</sup> of wood, some tree species uses up to near 3000 m<sup>3</sup> of water, which is the so called water footprint of wood. The crucial point is that this enormous amount of water depends on the tree species, of course, but also on the management regime of the forest, as illustrated in the table.

While optimizing the forest management of our forests to improve the water use efficiency does not affect the carbon fixed by the forest severely, it is crucial to incorporate the water as a key factor to our management conceptual models. There are a lot of advantages beside the water savings in optimizing the use of water: a water-centered forest management regime can represent in the Mediterranean region enormous ecological and social advantages in relation to the current carbon-centered management concepts which very often misuse the most precious environmental factor: water.

| Soil depth cm | optimal management | non optimal management |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 50            | 584                | 782                    |
| 150           | 739                | 1263                   |

Water footprint of scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) (m<sup>3</sup> of water used to produce 1 m<sup>3</sup> of wood) growing in two contrasting soils under an optimal management compared to a management regime non optimize for the use of water.



**Bart Muys** | Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium  
**Robert Mavsar** | EFIMED

## New Approaches to Evaluate Water-Related Ecosystem Services

Unsustainable water consumption patterns and the impacts of climate change are making the water scarcity problem worse in the Mediterranean. This will most likely aggravate conflicts between upstream and downstream users and rural and urban areas. Furthermore, since forests are major consumers of water, it can be expected that the discussion about the trade-off between reduced water availability and the ecosystem services provided by them will receive increased attention. Sustainable solutions require the integration of different interests and the collaboration of all stakeholders involved. For example, a drastic reduction of the forest area might increase the availability of water, but would negatively influence the provision of ecosystem goods and services. Integrating ecohydrological and socio-economic aspects is a key approach towards sustainable management of water resources, ensuring balanced and continued provision of sufficient water resources and other environmental services. A myriad of new tools for trade-off analysis and land management optimization are becoming available that could help to achieve optimal decisions.

*The integration of water with other ecosystem services should be based on a better understanding of how ecosystem services interact with each other.*

Green water flow sustains main ecosystem functions, and therefore should receive increased attention. The

blue water paradigm is based on the evaluation of blue water resources available for human purposes, as related to the effects of forests and other land uses and management. The integrated evaluation of green and blue water flows can be achieved through hydrological models, as well as through policy relevant indicators.

*The challenge of integrating upstream and downstream interests, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, can be met through reconciling the blue and green water paradigm. This can be practically achieved by using specific methods.*

To explore the economic dimension of the implementation of water-related policies, we would have to quantify the value of water and the effects of these policies on the provision of environmental goods and services and their value. When considering the value of water, we should distinguish at least two concepts, namely, the value and the price of water. The actual price of water in most Mediterranean countries is based on the supply cost, only including operational and management costs of water supply. The recommended approach would be to define the water price on the basis of the full-cost, which includes opportunity and economic costs, and environmental externalities. Appropriate water pricing would be one of the key elements of more efficient use and management of water.

Giorgio Matteucci | CNR-ISAFOM & IBAF, Italy  
Jerry Vanclay | Southern Cross University, Australia  
Javier Martin-Vide | University of Barcelona, Spain

## Do Forest Areas Influence Rainfall Regime?

The role of forests in affecting microclimate, by regulating flows and availability of water and preventing erosion, are generally well established. The huge flux of global water vapour from annual precipitation over land, the evaporation and transpiration processes and plants represents a fundamental ecosystem service that contributes to the global water cycle and climate regulation through cloud formation. Therefore, forests sustain the hydrological cycle through evapotranspiration, which cools the climate through feedbacks with clouds and precipitation. Large-scale model simulations have routinely demonstrated biogeophysical regulation of climate by vegetation through albedo (reflectivity), turbulent fluxes, and other effects on the hydrological cycle.

### Are the influences of forests on rainfall “active” processes?

Recently, analysing vegetation data from terrestrial transects and precipitation fields, researchers concluded that rainfall in areas with extensive natural forests (the Amazon, Yenisey River and equatorial Africa) does not decrease as expected with increasing distance from oceans. Although, the same is not true over non-forested areas, and researchers have proposed the existence of an active “biotic pump” transporting moisture inland from the ocean to forests (Makarieva et al. 2009). Natural forests maintain high evaporation fluxes, which support an ascending air motion over the forests and “suck in” moist air from the ocean.

However, the “evaporative force” on which the “biotic pump” theory is based has been criticised as not being supported by basic physical principles (Meesters et al. 2009). Other researchers have underlined the relevance of the “biotic pump” in offering new lines of investigation and transforming how we view forest loss, climate change, hydrology, and environmental services, if validated (Sheil and Murdiyarso 2009).

Although the theory of “forests as a biotic pump” has not received enough confirming support yet, all researchers working on the role of forests involved in climate change agree that there should be improvement concerning weakness and uncertainties when modelling climatic responses.

Notably, land use and coverage are still not generally recognized in international assessments as having a role in precipitation that is at least as large as that caused by the radiative effect of greenhouse gases. Forests have the ability to amplify or dampen climate change arising from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions through albedo, evapotranspiration, the carbon cycle, and other processes.

*“The biophysical consequences of forest cover change and other co-effects can be large at regional scales and may sometimes reduce or even cancel the benefits of carbon sequestration. Biophysical interactions should therefore be factored into climate mitigation strategy in at least two ways — in designing carbon sequestration projects to achieve the greatest climate benefit and in comparing the costs and benefits of terrestrial carbon sequestration with those of other mitigation activities.” (Environ. Res. Lett. 2008)*



Biotic pump of atmospheric moisture: transpiration fluxes regulated by natural forests exceed oceanic evaporation fluxes to the degree when the arising ocean-to-land fluxes of moist air become large enough to compensate losses of water to runoff in the entire river basin. Adapted from Sheil and Murdiyarso (2009).

# A Platform for All the Actors in the Mediterranean Forests

The Second Mediterranean Forest Week joined Mediterranean policy makers, practitioners, forest owners, scientists and representatives from the civil society, in the frame of the International Year of Forests on 5–8 April in Avignon.

During the week, policy-relevant questions on the role of forests in the specific Mediterranean questions were discussed. The issues ranged from the sustainable development of Mediterranean territories to impacts of climate change on forest fire prevention strategies. The interaction between forests and water was also one of the major topics discussed as it is one of the key resources in the region – and beyond. In this context, also the EFI publication “Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean – A Challenging Balance. What Science Can Tell Us?” was presented.

A Scientific Seminar on forests and biodiversity reflected issues regarding biodiversity in the region and the role of science and society interplay. Other events included discussions on the EFFIS system, the meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests and the Extended Executive Committee of SilvaMediterranea group of FAO. The workshop on Forests, Societies and Territories promoted the exchange of cross-sectoral experiences of forest governance. This platform also hosted the meeting of Mediterranean forest owners (ARCMED) and provided the chance for different Mediterranean projects to meet (AGORA, SylvaMED). The event also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the idea of SilvaMediterranea.

Further information

[www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/mfw2011](http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/mfw2011)



Yves Birot and François Lefèvre



Glòria Domínguez Torres and Margaret Shannon



Ismail Belen and Eduardo Rojas-Briales



# Forest Owners' and Practitioners Hold Key Roles

No-one can offer precise forecasts of future climate conditions – not today and not tomorrow. Uncertainty is something we need to consider in future forest management even with the most advanced climate models. We cannot wait for 'better forecasts', we must make a decision to adapt the management strategies in response to our improved understanding of impacts and observed forest responses to the changing environmental conditions.

Forest owners' and practitioners hold a key role in the successful adaptation of flexible adaptive management systems. *Marja Kolström*, Senior Researcher at EFI, explains why: "Although the climate change is a global phenomenon, adaptation should happen at the local level. It is crucial which measures are implemented in stands or forest holdings and how successful those measures are."

The recent EFI Policy Brief on climate change impacts and adaptation in European forests states that policy support, resources for education and training and the dissemination of knowledge to key actors are needed. The project behind the brief is MOTIVE (Models for Adaptive Forest Management), which investigates adaptive management strategies that address climate and land use change. It also examines the impacts of these changes with respect to a broad range

of forest goods and services. When asked what MOTIVE as a project is offering for forest owners and practitioners, *Marja Kolström* points out that the final product of MOTIVE will be a toolbox which can help the forest owner to make a good choice, for example to manage afforestation or reduce susceptibility to forest fires in his/her forest. For more info on the MOTIVE- project, visit [www.motive-project.net](http://www.motive-project.net).

The new EFI Policy Brief "Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in European Forests" outlines the status of current knowledge on the climate change impacts

and adaptation in European forests, and identifies the challenges that need to be addressed for successful responses in policy and management.

*EFI Policy Brief 6, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in European Forests by Marja Kolström, Terhi Vilén and Marcus Lindner is available at [www.efi.int/portal/virtual\\_library/publications/policy\\_briefs/](http://www.efi.int/portal/virtual_library/publications/policy_briefs/)*

Further information  
Dr. Marja Kolström,  
[firstname.lastname@efi.int](mailto:firstname.lastname@efi.int)



---

## New Project: Compiling and Refining Environmental and Economic Accounts (CREEA)

The newly launched project – Compiling and Refining Environmental and Economic Accounts (CREEA) – aims to elaborate economic and environmental accounting principles, building upon decisions and discussions in the so-called London Group (see [unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/london-group/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/london-group/)), to test them in practical data gathering, and to show added value of having such harmonized data available via case studies. The project will fill in remaining gaps in the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting – SEEA 2012, give guidance into the most effective ways of practical implementation (particularly data gathering), and build a case showing the added value of practically implementing SEEA 2012.

The work focuses on the priority areas of water, forest and climate change / Kyoto accounting, resources and waste. The core goal is to identify and solve practical issues in applying the developed accounting principles, and to showcase the relevance of this practical application to policy makers, statistical offices, etc.

*Robert Mavsar* from EFIMED says that EFI is coordinating the work package on forest accounts with such tasks as reviewing and evaluating the proposed changes in the SEEA 2012 and estimate the feasibility of the implementation of the SEEA 2012 in the EU Member States. Also, EFIMED will be estimating the usefulness of the SEEA 2012 data for the development of forest

policies. "Existing national data", says Mr Mavsar, "might be useful for meeting the proposed SEEA 2012 standards, but procedures for making the data consistent and adapting it will need to be thought of."

CREEA is coordinated by TNO from the Netherlands and there are other 12 European partner organizations participating. CREEA is funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme and runs until 2014.

Further information on the project  
Prof. Dr. Arnold Tukker, TNO Netherlands,  
[firstname.lastname@tno.nl](mailto:firstname.lastname@tno.nl)

# FOREST EUROPE Outcomes

At the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in mid-June 2011 in Oslo, Norway, the ministers responsible for forests met to take far-reaching high-level policy decisions concerning the continent's forests. These decisions will lay the foundations for providing effective means that will enhance the role of forests in mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, fostering a low carbon economy, providing green jobs and addressing ways and means of tackling the issue of illegal logging.

A key item addressed at the conference was the elaboration of a strengthened policy framework for sustainable forest management throughout Europe. In this context, the ministers decided on entering into negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe. Moreover, the vision, goals and targets for forests in Europe as part of the future FOREST EUROPE strategy were adopted.

## The role of science in the policy context

Forest Europe process will be based on two tracks parallel approach: 1) Oslo Ministerial Decisions with the title European Forests 2020 as a voluntary policy process including vision and goals for forests, targets for 2020, mission as well as European and national actions; and 2) Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

The role of science in support of Forest Europe has been clearly recognized in the context of both tracks. The Ministerial Conference states "Recognising the value of adequate and accessible forest information,

such as forest inventories, monitoring, assessing and reporting on implementation of sustainable forest management as well as science-based knowledge, for decision making at all levels." The second European 2020 target is specified as follows: "In addressing emerging issues forest knowledge is improved through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication." Furthermore, the development of Forest Europe Work Programme for the next four years will be carried out in cooperation with partners, such as the European Forest Institute. "Hence, the pan-European science community has a strategic opportunity concretely advance science-policy interaction in coming years", says Ilpo Tikkanen, EFI.

The Oslo Ministerial Conference decided to launch the negotiating process towards the Legally Binding Agreement as well as to establish Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) and the Bureau for the INC. In servicing jointly the negotiating process towards the LBA, the Oslo Summit requested the Liaison Unit of Forest Europe and invited UNECE, FAO, UNEP and EFI to form the Secretariat. According to distribution of tasks among these organisations EFI's natural role will be providing independent scientific and policy advice in support of negotiations as well as inputs to information needs identified by the INC.

Since last Ministerial Conference held in Warsaw in 2007 EFI has actively provided its contribution and input at Expert Level Meetings as well as at several unofficial drafting meetings in preparations of the Oslo Summit.

The Ministerial Conference was hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. *Lars Peder Brekk*, and was organised jointly with the Spanish Minister of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Dr. *Rosa Aguilar Rivero*. The chairmanship shifted from Norway to Spain after the Ministerial Conference in Oslo.





sc032 / www.fotolia.com

---

EFI coordinated the **Scientific Community Group Statement** to the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference. In the statement it is highlighted that “the Scientific Community remains committed to contribute to the development and implementation of the new Work Programme in cooperation and partnership with other key actors. In particular, we can provide valuable inputs to further development of sustainable forest management to address forest-related issues such as biodiversity, climate change, water, bio-energy, governance, improvement of forest reporting and monitoring systems as well as development of a common approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services.” Furthermore, the “the Scientific Community strongly supports the Oslo decision that the new Work Programme of Forest Europe should include actions to

further improve the forest monitoring and reporting tools.”

EFI also contributed to the preparation of the “**State of Europe’s Forest 2011**” report presented at the Conference. The EFICIENT-OEF in Nancy, France, had a lead role in coordinating together with the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the FAO, the collection, validation and analysis of the qualitative (forest governance) indicators for SFM and in writing the respective chapters for the report. The EFICIENT in Freiburg, Germany, together with the Finnish Forest Research Institute METLA, Joensuu, were responsible for preparing the chapters for Criterion 4 and 5 which incorporate the indicators on forest biodiversity and protective functions of forests.

## Biomass Resource Assessment Handbook published

Biomass resource assessments indicate the availability of biomass for energy production. This handbook provides best practices for determination of biomass resource potentials and gives guidance for transparent presentation of results. Methods are provided for forest biomass, energy crops, agricultural residues and organic waste. For each biomass type, a distinction is made between statistical methods, spatially explicit methods, cost-supply methods and more advanced modelling methods. Furthermore, the handbook provides a detailed overview of sustainability aspects that can be implemented in future biomass resource assessments. The Biomass Resource Assessment Handbook is a product of the European

'Biomass Energy Europe' (BEE) project, in which 16 renowned universities, institutes and companies worked on harmonisation of biomass resource assessments. EFI was involved in several of the work packages, providing expertise in forestry and forestry residues. The project was supported by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

*The Biomass Resource Assessment Handbook: Harmonisation of Biomass Resource Assessments, Best Practices and Methods Handbook is available at Amazon.com.*

Further info on the BEE project  
[www.eu-bee.com](http://www.eu-bee.com)

---

## Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability

The three-year Northern Periphery Programme-project "Northern ToSIA" is in its final year. It has been investigating options for improving the sustainable use of forest resources in selected regions of the Northern Periphery. This was done by using and improving ToSIA – Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment, which is used in different case applications as part of the regional development, corporate social responsibility reporting in the companies, and decision support system.

ToSIA was used in regional development plans, providing hands-on policy advice

- in the preparation of the Regional Climate and Energy Programme in North Karelia (Finland), which has the same targets as the EU climate and energy package; a series of demanding climate and energy targets to be met by 2020, known as the "20-20-20" targets.
- in aiding the formulation of the Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012 in Scotland, UK.
- as a basis for stakeholder interaction in Malå Sami Village, Västerbotten, Sweden, which brings forestry, reindeer husbandry and forest conservation aspects together.

All Northern ToSIA case studies are directly supporting the implementation of the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas of the EU and the national and regional implementation of the sustainable development targets. The cases assess sustainability impacts of alternative resource use strategies and of supply chain changes in company cases and support decision making in line with all three dimensions of sustainability.

Learn more about these cases and join the platform for stakeholder interaction at the Northern ToSIA -project Final Conference in Finnish Lapland, Rovaniemi: "Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability", 18–19 August 2011.

We demonstrate how the project results can help decision-makers balance the demands of different aspects of forestry. Topics for discussion will include:

- Multifunctional landscapes – Effects of consideration in forestry to reindeer husbandry and/or environment (Sweden)
- Forest resource utilisation and increase of wood based bioenergy production: research knowledge to regional decision making (Finland)
- Multifunctional Landscapes: how do we manage forests in a National Park to meet diverse societal expectations? (Scotland)
- Protect or Produce: forest management scenarios Helgeland (Norway)
- Tools for Sustainability Impact Assessment: how can the use of ToSIA support forestry decision making and communication between stakeholders?

Expected audience are forest and land use policy- and decision makers, planners, managers and researchers; representatives of national, regional and local authorities; forest industry representatives; Sámi representatives and other forest users.

More info  
[www.northerntosia.org](http://www.northerntosia.org) or [northerntosia@efi.int](mailto:northerntosia@efi.int).





## Marc Palahí appointed as Assistant Director in Policy Advice



Anu Ruusila

Dr. *Marc Palahí* has been appointed as acting Assistant Director in Policy Advice in EFI. Dr. Palahí will start his initial two-year term on 1 July. His post-station is in the EFI policy advice office to be established this summer in Barcelona. In this new post in the EFI, he will be responsible for coordinating policy advice activities throughout the institute, help establishing the policy advice office in Barcelona and establishing and starting new policy advice activities and funding. He also continues his work as Head of EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office, EFIMED.

Dr. Palahí has a PhD in forestry and economics and a M.Sc. in forestry engineering. He has previously worked as Head of EFI Mediterranean Regional Office, EFIMED, where he has been coordinating research, capacity building and networking activities among a network of 40 research and education institutions from 18 Mediterranean countries. He also led EFI Project Centre MEDFOREX (2000-2007) in close co-operation with the CTFC (Forest Technological Centre of Catalonia), and has been a researcher and lecturer at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Joensuu.

Dr. Palahí has coordinated various international research projects as well as published widely in peer-reviewed publications. He is also editor-in-chief for the newly established EFI publication series 'What Science Can Tell Us?'.

---

## New Head of Foresight and Information Programme appointed



Erikki Oksanen / Metla

Dr. *Lauri Hetemäki* has been appointed as the Head of Foresight and Information Research Programme at the European Forest Institute. Dr. Hetemäki will start his 5-year-term at EFI on 1 August 2011. Dr. Hetemäki holds a D.Sc. in Economics from the University of Helsinki, and a MA in Economics from the University of Sussex, England. He is currently working as a Senior Researcher and Project Manager at the Finnish Forest

Research Institute (Metla), where he has focused on global forest industry, and prepared outlook studies for both global and Finnish forest sectors.

Dr. Hetemäki has also a strong research experience in the impact of information and communication technology to forest sector, and bioenergy issues. He has also extensive experience in project management and policy advice and he is an author of over 100 scientific and popular publications.

Foresight and Information Research Programme is one of the three research programmes of EFI, and it focuses particularly on information services on European forests and foresight studies for the European forest sector.

---

## New Board members elected

The Council of the European Forest Institute has re-elected Prof. Dr. *José Antonio Bonet* (Spain) and Dr. *Harald Mauser* (Austria) to EFI Board for the period 2011-2014. In addition, the Council elected two new members to the Board: *Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza* (Italy) and *Lisa Sennerby Forsse* (Sweden).

The Council, Board and the EFI Secretariat warmly thank previous Board members, *Liisa Saarenmaa* (Finland) and *Miroslav Benko* (Croatia) for their invaluable contribution to EFI activities during the past years.

Fourteen EFI member countries were represented at the EFI Council on 22 June in Zagreb, Croatia

# Forest-Based Technology Platform – FTP News

## FTP conference 2011

Preparations for the next FTP conference are in full swing, in collaboration with FTP's Polish NSG (National Support Group). The Forest Platform's 7<sup>th</sup> conference, entitled "Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy", will take place in Warsaw on 26–27 September. Speakers will include *Michal Jarczyński* (CEO Arctic Paper & Chairman of FTP High Level Group), *Pierre Lapointe* (CEO FP Innovation) and *Maive Rute* (Director, DG Research – EC).

## The Next Research Framework Budget "FP8"

The budget and structure of the next Research Framework Budget "FP8" is to be decided this year. FTP is acting through its network to provide input to the European Commission on the priorities of the Forest-Based Sector. This includes discussions and responses to two highly important public consultations: one on the "Bio-Based Economy for Europe" that ended on May 6, and to the Public Consultation on the "Future Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation Funding" that ended on May 20. According to initial indications the input of the National Support Groups and FTP has been acknowledged by the EC.



Cristiano Ribeiro / www.fotolia.com

## New manager appointed

A new manager for FTP is Mr *Johan Elvnert* who replaces Dr. *Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld*, who left FTP at the end of March. Johan Elvnert has been involved in European research and development activities, and in particular FTP, from the time he worked in the European Commission's DG Research, as a national expert. Following on from this assignment he worked as a consultant for various forest-based organisations prior to joining FTP sprl in November 2009 as co-ordinator of the Star-COLIBRI project.

## Preparation of ideas for the 2013 EC Work Programme

The 2013 Work Programme will be the largest and last funding opportunity under FP7. The FP7 Task Force, headed by *Martin Greimel*, has analysed the previous Work Programmes and in order to draft the first ideas for the 2013 research topics, and to set priorities for discussions with the EC, each one of the three main value-chains met in Brussels in May. The Call Topic ideas will be sent out to the FTP network for general consultation before being discussed with representatives of the European Commission. Furthermore, FTP organised a brokerage event in June to share information on tentative topics for the next calls; all relevant topics will be summarised in late July on the FTP website.

## The Star-COLIBRI Project

Star-COLIBRI is a strategic project coordinated by FTP with the aim of improving communication and collaboration between different actors in the area of biorefineries R&D in Europe.

[www.forestplatform.org](http://www.forestplatform.org)

## ACT NOW! Forests For Future



A global virtual school and network Environment Online – ENO will organise a conference called ACT NOW! Forests For Future in September 2011. The conference will take place in Joensuu, Finland. It is featured one of the key events for the international year of forests by the United Nations.

The world of forests will be built inside the Joensuu Arena 15–16 September where you can join hands-on workshops, panel discussions and performances from around the world. Over 7 000 students, teachers, education and forest experts amongst others are expected to come from about 100 countries.

[www.actnow.fi](http://www.actnow.fi)



## FOPER on the international stage!

The FOPER II project is gaining visibility in the international research community on forest policy and economics. Some of the highlights of FOPER II this spring were when the Finnish Ambassador to Croatia visited FOPER in Varazdin in March and FOPER hosted a workshop organized by the World Bank and FAO on assessing forest governance.

The Finnish Ambassador to Croatia, Mr. *Juha Ottman*, along with Mr. *Branimir Vlajo*, Honorary Consul of Finland, and Ms. *Laura Stojčić*, Project Officer visited Varaždin and the FOPER II coordination team elaborated the central activities of the FOPER II project, some of its accomplishments, and many of its plans for the future. The Ambassador promised that he will help the project and EFI in any way possible to promote and strengthen our network in the partner countries.

During March 15–17, FOPER II was host to the second workshop of the Governance Indicators Core Team, which represents major international organizations like World Bank, FAO, WRI, Chatham House, EFI and others – and was in charge of finding commonalities amongst different forest governance assessment systems. FOPER II also participated in the conference May 19–20, 2011 in Rome where the Core Group presented its results to a larger audience.

FOPER supports students, researchers and faculty in forest policy and economics to present papers at international conferences. In May, three FOPER II masters students, two FOPER doctoral students, one FOPER I student, and two regional faculty members



Natasa Lovric and Doni Blagojevic of FOPER II team.

presented papers at the IUFRO Research Group on Law and Legislation at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development in Kaunas, Lithuania. With support from IUFRO Research Group 9.06 and FOPER, they represented FOPER research and education capacity in front of an international audience.

---

## New CEPF Secretary General appointed

Dr. *Aljoscha Requardt* has been appointed as the new CEPF Secretary General. He will start in the position on August 1, 2011. He has a wide expertise in forest policy and information and an extensive background in the concept of sustainable forest management,

in particular its tools criteria and indicators (C&I). He is currently working at EFI as the Manager of the EFICIENT-Observatory for European Forests (OEF) in Nancy, France. EFI wishes Aljoscha all the best in the new position!

---

## Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2011: Forests and Energy



Forest and energy issues brought together researchers and forest sector experts at the Joensuu Forestry Networking Week held for the third time in Joensuu on 22–27 May 2011. This year's theme, Forests and Energy, emphasized the sustainability of forest energy production and its impacts on regional and national economies, as well as the efficiency of supply chains, entrepreneurship and new, green business solutions.

The Joensuu Forestry Networking Week attracted some sixty participants from a total of twenty different countries, and some of the participants came all the way from Australia and Bangladesh.

The week comprised seminars and workshops which were scheduled to take place in the Metla building on the University of

Eastern Finland campus. The programme also included field trips to two small eastern Finnish towns, Eno and Ilomantsi, where the participants had the opportunity to learn about energy wood harvesting and pellet production.

The annual Joensuu Forestry Networking Week is a joint initiative of the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), the European Forest Institute (EFI), the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) and the North Karelia University of Applied Sciences in increasing networking between European researchers and forest sector experts.

For further information, visit [http://www.efi.int/portal/news\\_\\_\\_events/events/extra/2011/jfnw2011/](http://www.efi.int/portal/news___events/events/extra/2011/jfnw2011/)



Roxana Badea

# The New EFI Winter-Summer School – a Great Success!

**Andreas Schuck** | EFICIENT-OEF

**Margaret Shannon** | EFI

The EFI Winter-Summer School (WSS) model of graduate education aims at creating collaborative research networks on topics of high relevance for forests and environment at the European scale. Engaging doctoral students is central in supporting EFI's mission to strengthen and mobilize European forest research and expertise to address policy-relevant needs. The EFI WSS model is designed to integrate two weeks of direct teaching separated by several months during which the students accomplish individual work assignments.

In the last decades, social and economic changes in Europe have introduced new challenges for forests and forestry: the demand for traditional forest goods is stagnating or even decreasing, while the importance and demand for ecosystem services is increasing. These developments encouraged EFI to outline a concerted action aimed at providing knowledge on the profitability of forest management for the forest owners and the society in different European regions. Besides developing a common methodological framework, the action will target to build a pool of forest and resource economists from different

parts of Europe and train young scientist in this field. Therefore the topic 'Making values work – exploring multiple perspectives in understanding the valuation of forest ecosystems' was selected for the first WSS.

The first WSS week in March 2011, took 28 highly motivated PhD students from 15 countries to the University House of the Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, Germany, located in the Black Forest on the flanks of one its highest mountains, the Schauinsland. The students were guided by 18 lectures from 12 countries in their exploration of the valuation of forest ecosystems. The first day gave the students

insight to European forests, environmental challenges and rural development, while the second was dedicated to introducing different economic theories and how these may be applied to research. During the following days, theories from social sciences and cultural aspects of forest management were presented, as were the role of policy formulation and innovation. The students were then asked to apply gained knowledge in group work formulating research questions and corresponding outputs to be prepared for the second week in Croatia, in September 2011. The second week will focus on the presentation of the students' work assignments framed by lectures and practical examples of applying valuation processes. Outcomes of the WSS will be publishable papers prepared by the students and the support towards building a forest and resource economists network.

More information

[www.eficient.efi.int/portal/events/efi\\_winter\\_\\_\\_summer\\_school/](http://www.eficient.efi.int/portal/events/efi_winter___summer_school/)





HP Behrbeck / www.forest.com

## Indonesia, the First Asian Country to Sign a Timber Deal with the European Union

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2011, the Republic of Indonesia and the European Union concluded the negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). VPAs are bilateral agreements between the European Union and timber exporting countries, which aim to provide assurance that the wood exported to the EU is only from legal sources. In addition, they support partner countries in improving regulation and governance of the sector.

Commissioner *Karel de Gucht* noted, “Not only is Indonesia the first Asian country to conclude VPA negotiations with the EU, it is also by far the largest timber exporter to enter into such an agreement.” Meanwhile, Indonesian Forestry Minister *Zulkifli* called the agreement a significant breakthrough, the culmination of four years of negotiations.

In less than 50 years, Indonesia has gone from being 82% forest to only 49% today, a trend that has led to social problems, environmental degradation and a loss of economic opportunities on a massive scale, according to studies of the impact of deforestation on the nation. In 2007, a UN report estimated that 73–88 %

of timber logged in Indonesia was illegally sourced.

Over the years, Indonesia has strengthened its efforts to tackle illegal logging. In fact, a recent Chatham House study reports that log smuggling from Indonesia to China has fallen by 92% since 2004, and illegal logging in the forest nation has dropped 75% in the last decade, although it notes some 40% of timber production remains illegal.<sup>1</sup> By entering into a VPA both parties are signalling their further joint commitment to respond to the problem of illegal logging and related international trade.

The EU and the Government of Indonesia also linked the implementation of this new Indonesian timber deal to the new EU

Timber Regulation which will prohibit the importation into the EU of illegal timber and timber products from March 2013.

Under the EU Timber Regulation FLEGT licences, obtained as a result of VPA implementation, will be considered as sufficient proof of legality. Such FLEGT-licensed timber will therefore be exempt from the further checks required by the new Regulation. Countries that have signed and implemented a VPA will thus have easier access to the EU market.

The conclusion of the negotiations with Indonesia follows earlier agreements with Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and Ghana. Liberia concluded negotiations with the EU on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. A number of other countries are negotiating VPAs including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Malaysia and Vietnam. Many other countries have now expressed interest in entering dialogue with the EU over similar measures.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/913/>



izzog / www.fotolia.com

# Welcome to EFI Annual Conference 2011 in Uppsala!

Registration open until  
9 September at [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int)

## Our forests – photo competition



INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011

Whether photography is your passion, your hobby, or just an occasional pastime, we invite you to participate in our photo contest, celebrating the beauty and unique characters of our forests.

Winning photos will be displayed on the [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int) home page and EFI news; and they will be also made into an EFI's our forests 2012 wall calendar.

The contest is open to all EFI Member organisations (amateur photographers), EFI staff members or their family are not eligible to enter. Winners will be notified approximately 2–3 weeks after the contest deadline by phone or email using the information on the entry form. Winners will also be announced during the 2011 Annual Conference in Uppsala, Sweden and will be published in the EFI News. No financial compensation is provided to winners.

More info and rules:

[http://www.efi.int/portal/members/membership\\_service/our\\_forests\\_photo\\_competition/](http://www.efi.int/portal/members/membership_service/our_forests_photo_competition/)

## EFI Annual Report 2010 now available!



Download at [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int) from Virtual Library or e-mail us for a hardcopy at [efisec\(at\)efi.int](mailto:efisec(at)efi.int)



# Event Calendar

## EFI Events

### ■ International Summer School: Tree Rings, Natural Resources and Human Interaction

11 July 2011  
Kiato, Greece

### ■ Summer School: Population Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Assess and Mitigate Human and Climate Impacts on Forest Genetic Resources

25–29 July 2011  
Göttingen, Germany

### ■ Northern ToSIA Final Conference: Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability

18–19 August 2011  
Rovaniemi, Finland

### ■ Summer School: Next Generation Sequencing and the Analysis of Genetic Diversity

6–9 September 2011  
Udine, Italy

### ■ Summer School: Adaptation to Climate Change in Forest Management

12–16 September 2011  
Vienna, Austria

### ■ COST Strategic Workshop Final Conference: Foresight on Future Demand for Forest-based Products and Services (by invitation only)

13 September 2011  
Sekocin Stary, Poland

### ■ 9<sup>th</sup> International Beech Symposium: Ecology and Silviculture of Beech

12–17 September 2011  
Dresden, Germany

### ■ Winter-Summer School: Making values work – exploring multiple perspectives in understanding the valuation of forest ecosystems (2<sup>nd</sup> week)

19–23 September 2011  
Varazdin, Croatia

### ■ EFI 2011 Annual Conference

28 September 2011  
Uppsala, Sweden

### ■ Scientific Seminar in the connection to the EFI Annual Conference: Active Forestry with Responsibility

29–30 September 2011  
Uppsala, Sweden

### ■ Summer School: Functions of Microbial Communities in Soils; Sustainable Use of Biotic Resources

4–14 October 2011  
Munich, Germany

### ■ Summer School: Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics in Forest Ecosystems

15–17 November 2011  
Bordeaux, France

## EFI Associated Events

### ■ CarboForest Conference

21–23 September 2011  
Sekocin Stary, Poland

### ■ Ecosystem Design for Multiple Services – with Emphasis on Boreal Forests in Eurasia

9–11 November 2011  
St. Petersburg, Russia

### ■ Conservation and Management of Forests for Sustainable Development: where Science meets Policy

23–24 November 2011  
Leuven, Belgium

## Further information

Ms. Ulla Vanttinen  
Email: [ulla.vanttinen@efi.int](mailto:ulla.vanttinen@efi.int)  
[www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int), under News & Events

---

## CarboForest Conference

21–23 September 2011  
Forest Research Institute, Sekocin Stary, Poland

The CarboForest conference intends to provide a forum to discuss recent innovations and challenges related to all aspects of carbon storage and management in forest ecosystems. The main aims of the conference are to present actual achievements, focus the direction for further development in the area of carbon storage studies and stimulate the exchange of expertise. Discussion will cover the ecological, political, economical as well as technical aspects of carbon management, monitoring, reporting and verification of forest carbon stocks and their changes over time.

Register by 16 August 2011.  
[www.carboforest.eu](http://www.carboforest.eu)

## Exploring the Mega-fire Reality 2011

A Forest Ecology and Management Conference

14–17 November 2011, Florida State University Conference Center, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

The conference brings together experts from around the world and addresses the following major topics:

- Mega-fires: why is their frequency increasing?
- Why Mega-fires require special understanding and approaches
- Perspectives and lessons learned from around the world
- Choices and options before and after Mega-fires

[www.megafirereality.com/index.asp](http://www.megafirereality.com/index.asp)

# EFI Policy Advice Office to Barcelona

EFI will establish a Policy Advice office in Barcelona, Spain, this summer. The office will include also FLEGT-REDD activities, funded by the European Commission, which are a growing component of the institute.

The office will be located in the historical campus of Sant Pau in central Barcelona. The venue is a famous example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century art deco architecture and belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Sant Pau campus will host also other international organisations such as the United Nations University. The location consequently offers excellent international networking possibilities e.g. in the field of forest and environment.

The establishment of the office in Barcelona was possible thanks to a generous offer from Spain to host the office and to provide required privileges for EFI as an international organisation in Spain. "This development shows the high interest of our Member Countries to support EFI activities, and the decision made now strengthens our policy advice activities in the forest related issues," rejoiced Director *Risto Päivinen*. "We have had a well functioning and efficient Regional Office in Spain since 2007, and therefore it is a pleasure to have the new Policy Advice office located under

the same roof with the EFIMED Regional Office." On 4 April 2011, Director Päivinen met the President of the Government of Catalonia, the Minister of Science and Innovation of Spain and the Mayor of Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain to discuss the establishment of the office further.

The office in Barcelona will be a permanent office and by the end of 2011, there will be app. 25 persons working there both for policy advice activities and the Regional office EFIMED. The EFI policy advice activities – current ones and those in the future – will be led from there.

"The establishment of the Policy Advice Office allows for more efficient operations within the FLEGT-REDD Unit. It assures new recruitments and strengthening of FLEGT-REDD unit, which is needed in order to deliver expert services and respond increasing expectations by donors." states *Jussi Viitanen*, Acting Head of FLEGT-REDD Unit of EFI. The activities will gradually move to Barcelona as of July after the Host Country Agreement with Spain has been made.

EFI has rapidly grown in recent years and it has currently five Regional Offices in different locations of Europe and FLEGT Asia office in Malaysia. The increase of the staff has been 25% in the past year. This calls for a strong integration of the institute.



Pere Virgili

EFI director Risto Päivinen with Jordi Hereu, Mayor of Barcelona, Arthur Mas, President of Catalonia and Cristina Garmendia, Minister of Science and Innovation

Sant Pau Historic Site



**EFI**  
news

EFI News is the newsletter of the European Forest Institute.

Editor-in-Chief: Risto Päivinen  
Managing Editors: Minna Korhonen, Anu Ruusila and Satu Ikonen-Williams  
Layout: Jouni Halonen / Kopijyvä Oy  
Cover photo: fuxart / www.fotolia.com  
ISSN: 1236-7850  
1458-4255 (online)

#### Contributions and Announcements

Article ideas, letters to the editor and requests for advertising information should be sent to [publications@efi.int](mailto:publications@efi.int)

#### Subscription

EFI News is free of charge. In order to receive a copy, please send your full address to the European Forest Institute. The electronic version, as well as back issues, can be downloaded from [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int)

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provides policy advice on forest related issues. It facilitates and stimulates forest related networking as well as promotes the supply of unbiased and policy relevant information on forests and forestry. It also advocates for forest research and for scientifically sound information as a basis for policy-making on forests.

